

More support for stroke survivors

On the eve of National Stroke Week, ACT Labor has committed to build on its strong record of delivering quality stroke services in the ACT by improving care for stroke survivors after they leave hospital.

If re-elected, an ACT Labor Government would provide **\$320,000 over four years** to the Stroke Foundation to recruit a dedicated care coordinator to link patients who have left hospital with clinical, rehabilitation and social services recovery.

The Stroke Foundation would receive \$80,000 each year to employ the coordinator to help support an estimated 450 Canberra stroke survivors as well as allow the organisation to collate data to improve the quality of services for stroke patients who have left hospital.

The plan is modelled on a program trialled in Queensland that has had great success. It would allow the Stroke Foundation to provide comprehensive post-hospital support to stroke patients, their carer and families with a patient follow up and referral service.

Healthcare has always been a priority for ACT Labor. That's why we're already expanding the emergency department, building a new teaching hospital and opening two more free nurse walk-in centres. And it's why we will invest even more in support for stroke survivors and stroke-related services.

There is increasing demand for stroke-related services in Canberra. Stroke is among the three largest causes of death in Australia and a leading cause of disability. One in six people will have a stroke in their lifetime, and the number of admissions to Canberra Hospital's stroke unit has increased by more than 30% in the last decade.

These new funding measures for the Stroke Foundation build on Labor's existing commitment to stroke patients. In the 2016/17 ACT Budget Labor committed \$5 million in funding to cutting edge technology and specialised staff to carry out more interventions for the treatment of stroke.

With Stroke Week starting tomorrow, this timely announcement once again shows Labor's commitment to health support services for Canberrans.

When it comes to investing in health, Canberrans know they can trust Labor. Only Labor will continue to support and employ more doctors and nurses, who already deliver more than a million health services a year to Canberrans.

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